



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia & Kings Canyon
National Parks

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Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks Fire Update

For Immediate Release – July 31, 2009
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Granite Fire Discovered in Sequoia National Park *Fire Containment Strategy Chosen*

The *Granite Fire* was discovered on Wednesday, July 29th in the evening after a series of lightning strikes happened throughout the parks. It is near Granite Creek in upper Redwood Meadow of the Middle Fork drainage of the Kaweah River. It is showing active fire behavior with one-to-two foot flame lengths and single tree torching observed.

There are no immediate threats to life or property. However, the decision to contain this fire at as small an acreage as possible is due to its high potential for growth and because of potential smoke impacts for the parks and nearby communities.

Members of Crew 91 were inserted near the fire by helicopter and began efforts to line and contain the fire. Helicopter 552 supported fire operations.

The crew was successful in containing the fire at 2.2 acres. They continue to strengthen and hold the line. Steep terrain, roll-outs and spotting make firefighting in this terrain difficult. Some smoke is visible from this fire in the upper Kaweah Canyon.

The *Horse Fire* near Hockett Meadow in southern Sequoia National Park continues to slowly grow and is currently 19.4 acres.

<http://www.nps.gov/seki/naturescience/current-fires.htm>